

2012 Superintendent's Compendium
WRIGHT BROTHERS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

COMPENDIUM of designated closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority of the Superintendent of Wright Brothers National Memorial.

Under the provisions of 16 U. S. Code, Section 3 and Title 36 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, the following Superintendent's orders (COMPENDIUM) are established for Wright Brothers National Memorial. Unless otherwise noted, these orders apply in addition to the provisions contained in Parts 1-7 of Title 36 CFR.

The Wright Brothers National Memorial's significance is based on the events that occurred at the site from 1900-03. Historic integrity is of vital importance. The Wrights flew kites, gliders and a full-scale, controllable aircraft at this site. The annual visitation exceeds 400,000 and creates an unsafe mix of those visitors touring the grounds to enjoy the site. The historic First Flight Path and the Kill Devil Hills areas are heavily traveled by visitors on foot and/or vehicular traffic. Aircraft land daily on the 3,000-foot First Flight Airstrip.

Recommended:

Paul Stearns 1/18/12
 Chief Ranger Date

Approved:

Michael B. Murney 1-13-12
 Superintendant Date

PART 1 — GENERAL PROVISIONS:

Section 1.5 Closures and Public Use Limits.

- 1.5(a)1 Aircraft may not park at the airstrip for more than 24 consecutive hours or for more than a total of 48 hours during any 30-day period.

Justification: Designed for short term use, aircraft parking space is limited. With the urbanization of the area, the airstrip began to be used by planes of persons or business concerns for days or weeks at a time, preventing the use of the airstrip by those fliers wishing to visit the monument. The 3,000-foot aircraft runway and aircraft parking lot were designed to provide pilots the opportunity to visit by air the site of man's first flight. Therefore, special regulations (36 CFR 7.76(b)) were adopted to limit such non-park connected activity.

- 1.5(a)1 No aircraft operations ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise.

Justification: The airstrip is not lighted, requiring prohibition of aircraft operations ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise.

- 1.5(a)1 Except as authorized by the Superintendent, automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles or other vehicles shall not be operated on the sidewalks and foot trails of Wright Brothers National Memorial. The Wright Brothers bike path parallel to Colington Road and connecting Colington Road and 1st Street is a designated bicycle route.

Justification: Prohibiting unauthorized vehicles and pedestrian traffic on the runway provides an increased measure of safety for aircraft and visitors.

- 1.5(a)1 Model rocket, Radio controlled devices (aircraft, cars, etc.) and similar devices are prohibited.

Justification: Visitor safety is seriously compromised if radio-controlled planes, cars, and other motorized radio-controlled devices, or model rockets are launched on park grounds.

Section 1.6 Permits.

Permits are required for the following activities:

- Non-commercial soliciting (Section 2.37)
- Special events (Section 2.50)
- Public assemblies/meetings (Section 2.51)
- Sale/distribution of printed matter (Section 2.52)
- Business operations (Section 5.3)
- Commercial photography (Section 5.5)

Justification: The cited sections of 36 CFR require the possession of a permit issued by the Superintendent before such activities may be conducted.

PART 2 -- RESOURCE PROTECTION, PUBLIC USE AND RECREATION:

Section 2.1 Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources.

- 2.1(c) Reasonable quantities of the following may be gathered for personal use and consumption: fruits, nuts, seeds, berries, fallen leaves, and pine needles.

Justification: Those natural items enumerated are not endangered or rare and are present in such quantities that the gathering or consumption thereof will not adversely affect park wildlife, reproduction potential of the species or otherwise adversely affect park resources.

Section 2.15 Pets.

- 2.15(a)5 Pet excrement must be picked up and disposed of in provided trash containers in all areas of the park.

Justification: Pet excrement, besides being unpleasant, presents a public health and safety hazard, and can potentially adversely impact a visitor's experience.

Section 2.16 Horses and Pack Animals.

Horseback riding is prohibited.

Justification: All existing roads within Wright Brothers National Memorial are designed either for motor vehicles or pedestrian use. The mixing of horseback riding in those areas with the present volume of vehicle and pedestrian use would present a greater potential for resource damage or personal injury.

Section 2.19 Winter Activities.

Skiing, sledding, and similar winter sports are prohibited.

Justification: Skiing, sledding, and similar winter sports are prohibited on Kill Devil Hills which serves as the base for the pylon memorial. These activities are not in keeping with the purpose of the park and may be hazardous to park visitors. The area is a natural sand dune stabilized by grass. Without this grass cover wind erosion would undermine and eventually destroy the monument. Kill Devil Hills rises abruptly from a generally level terrain and invites the use of sliding devices on the grass or during infrequent periods of snow cover. Such use kills the grass or gouges furrows in the sod exposing the loose sand to rain and wind erosion. The hill has many cactus plants which make activities off the paved trail hazardous.

Section 2.20 Skating, Skateboards and Similar Devices.

The use of skates, skateboards, in-line skates, and similar devices is prohibited except on the Wright Brothers bike path.

Justification: Prohibiting vehicle use on foot trails prevents the unsafe mix of pedestrians and vehicles on the foot trails. The foot trails up the 90 foot plus stabilized dune, on which the granite pylon is erected, tempts certain visitors to use skateboards, wagons, bicycles, and other wheeled devices to utilize the paved paths for high speed downhill runs endangering pedestrians and themselves. The Wright Brothers bike path adjacent to Colington Road is conducive to bicycles and is a designated bicycle trail.

Section 2.21 Smoking.

Smoking is prohibited in all government buildings and government vehicles.

Justification: The restrictions on smoking are required and are in accordance with Federal Regulations, 41 CFR 101-20.105-3.

Section 2.51 Public Assemblies and Meetings.

2.51(a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades, and other public expression of views; involving twenty-six (26) or more participants are allowed in designated park areas provided a Special Use Permit has been issued by the Superintendent. Primary and Secondary First Amendment areas are identified at Attachment A.

Justification. Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades, and other public expression of views are allowed within park areas, provided a permit, therefore, has been issued by the Superintendent. A map designating areas for authorized Section 2.51 activities is available in the Superintendent's office. The designated areas on the map are hereby authorized for permitted activities provided no prior application for a permit for the same time and place has been made that has been or will be granted and the activities authorized by that permit do not reasonably allow multiple occupancy of that particular area.

Part 4 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

Section 4.21 Speed Limits.

Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit within Wright Brothers National Memorial is 20 mph.

Justification: The majority of the vehicle roads within Wright Brothers National Memorial are adjacent to or within parking lots and there are several directional signs which cause first time visitors to travel at slow speed in an attempt to find out where they are; therefore, 20 mph is considered to be the maximum safe speed on park roads.



Wright Brothers First Amendment Assembly Areas

